By Authority.

IT HAS pleased His Majesty the King to appoin Saturday, the 31st of December inst., as a day of Public Thanksgiving to Almighty God, for the many mercies bestowed upon this people; and all His loving subjects are hereby recommended to the due and proper observance of the same.

M, KEKUANAOA, His Majesty's Chamberlain. CHAMBERLAIN'S OFFICE, 17th Dec., 1859.

In a rather too elaborate leader on Thursday last, the Advertiser represents itself, and wishes the public to believe that it is, a much injured person. It is in a very sad plight, if we can believe what it says of itself-a thing not altion. And the cause of its pilikia is-well, flattery is pleasant even from an enemy, and a rose is leged competition of the Polynesian.

Without stopping to comment upon the tone and language with which our contemporary lubricates its own mental organism, and meritoriously its vituperation, attempts to wipe the pebbles of other people, we would merely call its attention to certain facts, which appear either to have been unknown, or not well understood by itself.

When the Advertiser accuses us of unfairness, injustice, want of manliness, &c., &c., did it bear in mind our leading article on the 18th December. last year, subject-Government Press, in which we recommended that " the Government Press be disposed of," because we then believed, as we do still believe, that the interests of the Government and the country would be better subserved without, than with, an investment in types and a typographical staff! We know, and the Advertiser knew, that that article was approved, and its opinions shared, by the Legislature who passed the Act which it now quotes. Was it too much sibly put it in the already filled pockets of the after an Irish fashion. Advertiser? for up to that time its periodical What our contemporary says about "extra efgrowl-for appearances sake-had never been pre- forts to withdraw (its) customary joh-work" maxim that " more wants more,"

planations from H. R. H. the Minister of the Interior, upon the reasons why "the first step has (not) been taken" to dispose of the Government Press; but at the risk of having our individual opinion construed into an official pronunciamento, with rather unpleasant truth, we will attempt to answer why " the first step has not been taken." The answer is brief: there was nothing to step on; and with all the disadvantages of the Government Press, as it is, yet it is to be presumed that by away dirty water, until it can get clean."

than his own, it does not require pro forma proclamations or lengthy advertisements to ascertain lease or buy the Government Press, its apparatus When such a one arises or arrives in this communonly, can "the first step be taken" to carry the Act of the Legislature into execution.

But, looking at the subject from another point of view, were the Polynesian office sold,-and, if tainly not a year, before another press and journal would start in opposition to the Advertiser. Yet. as the Government, with all its faults-inherited and inherent-is still looked up to and respected as the political exponent of liberal ideas and of industrial, agricultural and commercial progress, it is easy to be seen how it may become very much (for even six months,) of a political journal whose rule of action seems to be to oppose the measures of the Government, malign its motives and traduce which ruled the country in former days.

Under these circumstances, were we Minister of the Interior, Cabinet Council, Privy Council or Legislature, we should consider it a moral duty to "look before we leaped," however much we may concur in the principle that the Government should, at the earliest practicable moment, retire from every position where it comes in active competition with private enterprise, and however annoying such delay might prove to any individual. We will now proceed to some other facts of

which the Advertiser seems rather oblivious. We surely need not tell the Advertiser that "what is worth doing at all, is worth doing well." belong. There is not a reader of the Advertiser but remembers the Aminadab satisfaction, the patronizing smile with which for some years past it cracked its jokes upon the "terrapin express" and the " slow coach " of the Polynesian. And its readers were then regaled with serio-comic lucubrations upon the uselessness of such a journal. which never was on hand when it was wanted, and whose press " was no where " in the race for jobs. But there has come a change over the spirit of the Advertiser's dream, and now that we have obviated the very objections it then made, that we have enlarged and perfected the availability of the office, that we have rendered the Polynesian a match (our friends say, an over-match) for the Advertiser in each and every department which makes a newspaper valuable-now " the fat is in the fire," and instead of commending us for our improvement, miss in future.

and for the zeal and faithfulness with which we have labored to make both the office and the journal what they should be, and what the country has a right to expect from the appropriations it makes for them, and to accommodate that great number of residents and transients whose prejudices, predilections or interests lead them rather (as a matter of choice.) to our doors than to the opposition shop; and instead of appreciating our public spirit and personal unselfishness in increasing our own labor, anxiety and responsibility without any increase whatever in our salary,-instead of any of these, it abuses us like a pickpocket, and accuses us of "meanness," " dishonorable conduct " and of breaking the heart of one of the profession, when it knew, or should have known before it spoke, that it was as far from the truth as everthat every other man who reads it, that the very stones in the street would rise in judgment and rebuke it for disturbing the dead, whom we personally assisted when fortune frowned upon him and the Pharisees " passed by on the other side." ways safe to do when facts and figures are in ques- and who, so far from being "discouraged, disheartened," &c., at our maintaining our job office, actually leased that very same job office during the sweet in spite of the thorn,-the cause is the al- latter part of his life, and enjoyed the emoluments

We are really ashamed of our cotemporary ! Ashamed of its incorrectness, its indelicacy and

What it says about our " bribing away its master workman," with offers of higher wages, is about on a par with all the other facts in which it has contrived to envelope a proposition, which is undoubtedly correct in the abstract, though not perhaps applicable at the precise moment or in the particular manner which the Advertiser could desire. We believe that the change of office by the foreman in question was effected without any breach of the first business obligation by him or by us, and the motive was greater congeniality and not higher wages. We believe that so far from being distressed or even incommoded, the Advertiser had some three months' notice of the change. It sounds strange in our ears to hear the Adver-

tiser complain of breaches of the tenth commandment. There is a slight forgetfulness somewhere for our cotemporary's sense of justice to acknow- that we do not choose to unravel; and it is possiledge this fact and give us credit for our unselfish- ble that some people, in cases of emergency or of ness in advocating a measure that would probably personal application, have a way of suspending have taken the bread out of our mouth, and pos- any article of the decalogue by a two-thirds vote,

dicated upon any actual loss inured to itself from another of those two-edged swords in argument, of the competition, but simply upon grounds of pub- which it knows not the use. Unconscious of any lie economy or, perhaps, sub rosa, that ancient "extra efforts" or unfair means to withdraw its customers, we confess that we have been not a lit-We have not been honored by any special ex- tle gratified by the preference which the public has evinced in our behalf during this season. And as the Advertiser is unable or unwilling to perceive the causes of this preference which makes it eat its own heart with envy, we would modestly suggest that it may be owing to the more liberal, less and of returning the Advertiser's delicate flattery bigotted or factional spirit pervading our journal; or it may be that a contrary course has alienated many of the Advertiser's former customers; in short, it may be its own fault altogether, could its vanity only descend to conceive of such a thing.

However we may regret, in a friendly way, that this time the Government has learnt "not to throw the Advertiser has not been able to retain its former popularity, still we cannot regret the increasing In a small community, like this, where every favors bestowed upon our journal and job-office. body knows every other body's business far better We are glad, however, of this opportunity to disabuse the mind of our contemporary of the impression that the Government is determined to mainwho are capable, competent and willing to either tain its Press at any cost, solely and expressly to ruin private enterprise or to annoy the Advertiser. and fixtures. And we confess that for the present, And we again reiterate that we believe that the we know of no one uniting these qualifications. Minister of the Interior not only acknowledges the principle involved, but would be very willing to ity, he will soon be known, and then, and then dispose of the Government Press " whenever in his discretion he shall deem it best for the public in-

Now, when the Advertiser next writes on this subject, it will do us a favor and perform a duty to sold to the proprietor of the Advertiser, crippled the public (an indispensable condition of any lastas a whole, or sent out of the country to ensure ing popularity) by keeping itself within such facts its own coveted monopoly of printing-we fully as it knows and can prove to be true, and not to believe that six months would hardly clapse, cer- invoke the spirits of the dead unless it is prepared for the answer they may make.

"Cedant Arma Togm."

The beautiful specimen of ordnance which has been laying on the esplanade free to the examination of the passer by, since the destruction of the old fort, has been anally removed from its resting place, and shipped on board the Bowditch, which vessel is bound for the Uniembarrassed by being at the mercy, as it were, ted States. It has been purchased by Messrs. C. A. Williams & Co. The weight of this piece of metal, as shown by our friend Ward's scales, (which by the way would remind us of a Nunanu Valley Cemetery Lot its officers, and whose bigotry and illiberality dis- if the fence around them was only whitewashed), was play a strong relationship to those antique ideas 5,750 lbs., and at the round little price of 16 cents per lb. realizes for Government the nice sum of \$920. It will undoubtedly prove a good remittance for its purchasers, as Ames, of Springfield is said readily to give 40 cents per lb. for similar metal, and this is reported to contain a goodly quantity of silver. This gun was of the age of the 14th Louis, whose proud motto and cognizance, "Pheribus nec Impar" and the blazing sun are stamped with the heraldic emblazonment of the Bourbons, the well known " fleurs de lis" upon its surface ; the date, A. D. 1687, is upon the breech, together with the name of its founder. Upon the muzzle end the "funny" Frenchman has inscribed the baptismal name of " Le Divertissant, or the plaything, and immediately underneath the motto "Ultima Ratio Regum" the synonym for war, i. e., the final argument of kings If it is an object for the Government to keep a This piece, a contemporary of the earlier missionaries, press, and for its director to edit a journal, it is and now about to take a farewell of our shores, arrived also worth their while to keep that Press and that here in the year 1822, in the ship William & John, Capt. Journal at the top of the profession to which they | Ebbetts, and was transhipped on board the brig Pedlar, then under the command of our respected townsman Capt. John Meek. It was bought by Kalaimoku for King Kamehameha II., and the price paid was 150 piculs sandal wood, then worth about \$5000 in China. The nearly fatal, yet withal ludicrous accident connected with the attempt to free its vent hole from the instrument with which it was spiked by the French under Admiral de Tromelin, in 1849, are no doubt fresh n the remembrance of many of our citizens. A certain friend of ours informs us that the Governmen sold the gun for cash, as he knows it was not charged, We were glad to hear of this fact, for owing to its being spiked, the gun could not speak for itself.

> Omitted. We omitted in our last week's issue to acknowledge our obligations to Capt. John Paty of the bark Frances Palmer, for files of late papers. Capt. P. will please accept our thanks, and we will endeavor to be less re-

PAST WEEK.

Christmas.

Need we say it in words and print it on paper, need WE express to OUR readers and the great outside world promiscuously, how truly, how sincerely, we wish them-as we know that we are wished in return-A MERRY CHRISTMAS! and a good time coming right

How we rejuvenate ourselves by the hallowed recollections of Christmas Eve, with its candies and cakes. its rushes on the floor and its morning " Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, and good will to man !"

While you and we, however, dear reader, are thankfol to God who has blessed us with health and contentment, and permitted the unbroken links of the family chain to unite again round the family hearth for fresh inspirations of tenderness, love and obedience-let us not forget the sorrowing few, the heavy of heart ; let us remember that the afflicted are the wards of our Father in Heaven; let us succor and console them, if in our power, and let us respect their misfortunes by moderating our joy when their shadows pass the door

Once again, A Merry Christmas! until New Year's Eve calls us together to compare notes upon the past, and whisper our hopes for the coming year.

"The Man with the Black Bag." We dropped in at the " Emporium," corner of Merchant and Kaahumanu streets, the other day, and were shown some specimens of goods imported per Sea Nymph, by "the man with the black bag," which, in texture of fabric and elegance of style puts everything in the shade that ever before came into the port of Honolulu, To enumerate his different styles and varieties of goods which belong to the ladies' department alone, would be almost an endless task, to say nothing of the boxes, bales and packages adapted to every requirement of our community, and whose choice contents are their only excuse for so often incumbering the street. "Terms quick !- Prices cheap !" is our friend's motto, and we recommend our readers, who have a taste for artistic elegance, as well as the substantial and useful, to give firmness, and with impartiality. him an early call.

The Circus.

This gallant company of equestrians, voltigeurs and nimble performers continue to play to crowded houses. With the order and good management, and improved condition of the new premises, it is a pleasant resort to spend an evening to see the riding and tumbling and be warned by the clown that " Wedlock is a ticklish thing," etc. A circus is becoming an annual institution in Honolulu, and no doubt a great number of our people would look upon a season without it, as they would on a pudding guilty. ithout the plums-rather heavy on their hands

Ahio the Chinese Assassin.

We learn that the Chinaman, Ahio, now in custody and awaiting trial for the murder of the native cree was granted. woman Louika, a few weeks ago, has made a full and detailed confession, by which two other Chinamen, coolies, about town, have been implicated as accomplices before the fact. They were promptly arrested and committed for trial at the next January term. It is an old adage, which seems to hold good n China as well as elsewhere, that "when the thieves fall a quarrelling the farmer gets his corn."

De unte others, etc.

The Advertiser is coming down heavy on the toes of the Post Master General for alleged irregularity in the postal service. Would it not have been some little "manliness," besides courtesy, to have inquired at the Post Office about the missing letter, and given the P. M. an opportunity to investigate the matter before insinuating that his labor was vox et preterea nihil; a simple "endeavor" without any good result. Our cotemporary is very ticklish himself, but has apparently little regard for the epidermis of

Chas. Welcott Brooks.

As will be seen in our advertising columns, this gentleman continues in business at San Francisco as Commission and Shipping Merchant at No. 123, to many of our Merchants, and has had extensive dealings with the Islands, and the satisfaction given who may favor him with their business. The Market Reports for the Islands, as made up by Mr. Brooks, are replete with commercial information most interesting to our traders.

Rice Culture.

We publish to day a communication from Mr. Holstein, of the Royal Hawaiian Agricultural Society's Garden, upon the culture of this grain, which may prove a fortune to these islands, if fostered and enment, not only on a large scale, but on the various methods proposed. It is in that clear, graphic and intelligible style which always characterizes Mr. Holstein's remarks upon everything connected with the agricultural progress of the country, and we not only recommend it with pleasure to our readers, but hope also that not a few of them will give the subject a fair trial.

Go further and Fare Worse.

We are informed by a well known shipmaster who saw Capt. Smith of the whale ship Fabius, at San Francisco, that he attributes the dangerous sickness of his crew to the ill effects of his water, taken aboard at Kauai and which he said came from a stream running through a kalo patch. For the future he intends to get his water at Honolulu or Lahaina, if it costs a little more. Capt. Smith complained bitterly of the expenses at San Francisco. The Pilot charged him \$100,-and the Doctor \$300, to go to Saucelito and visit his ship's crew.

Almanacs for 1860.

We have had laid on our table "the Commercial Register for 1860," prepared and furnished by H. M. Whitney, Esq., of this city. It is a counterpart of the Register for 1859 prepared by the same gentleman. It contains a fund of practical information, not obtained elsewhere, and is for sale at the Coun- would float long enough on the unavoidable mud pudter of the Advertiser at rates varying from 25 to 50 cents according to the style.

cation is also for sale at the same place.

Concert of Sacred and Secular Music. Our readers will notice among our advertisements

and Waldau, the talented Musicians, assisted by the Honolulu Musical Amateur Society, give a Concert of sacred and secular music at the Fort Street Church. We anticipate a rare Christmas treat; something that the general public of Honolulu has never had an opportunity to hear since it was a city, and can not fail to appreciate when they hear it.

Thanks.

Messrs, McRuer and Merrill, of San Francisco, will please accept our thanks for news papers received ex

GROUP THEAT WHITE GOOD

Notice. The funeral of J. W. P. Kinau, son of the late high

Chief W. P. Leleiohoku, and the Governess of Hawaii. will take place on Tuesday, the 27th instant, from the residence of his Excellency the Governor of Oahu-All personal friends of the deceased, and officers of His Majesty's Government and the public generally are respectfully invited.

Dashaways.

Mr. Keyte will lecture before the Honolulu Dashaway Association to-night, at the Bethel. The public are

The Fourth Page.

The "Diamond Wedding" and prices current are printed on our fourth page. Circuit Court.

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT.—December Term, 1859 Associate Justice Robertson and J. Richardon, Esq., Local Circuit Judge, on the Bench.

The Court met on Tuesday, the 13th of December Previous to proceeding to business Judge Robertson in allusion to the place in which the Court met, observed to the following effect :

GENTLEMYN :- It gives me great pleasure to be able to congratulate the people of Maui upon the erection and completion of what has so long been felt to be a desideratum in the town of Lahaina, namely, a respectable public building for governmental purposes. While, in the construction of this spacious building. ample provision has been made for the necessary acommodation of the executive branch of the public service, the wants of the Judiciary Department have not been overlooked-that Department which, in point of importance, can never be regarded as second to any other, in a civilized country; for, upon the faithful administration of the law, guarding and enforcing the rights of all classes, and of every individual, must ever depend, in a great measure, the general well-being and prosperity of the entire community. It is our privilege, this morning, to inaugurate this commodious Hall of Justice, which has been built and set apart for the especial use and accommodation of the Circuit Court of the Island of Maui, as it shall meet, from time to time, for the transaction of business. Let us hope that so long as this substantial edifice shall continue to stand upon its solid foundation, so long shall the general principles of justice and the laws of the land continue to be administered here with skill, with

Rex vs. Akani : Perjury. Prisoner pleaded guilty and prayed the mercy of the Court. Sentenced to one year's imprisonment at hard labor.

Rex ts. Hina (female): Polygamy. Prisoner pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment at hard labor and a fine of \$5.

Rex vs Kahue : Perjury again. A nol. pros. entered on motion of the District Attorney.

Rex vs. Mose Puha: Perjury. A nol. pros. entered on motion of the District Attorney, and the same on a Rex vs. Kanikanihia: Sodomy. Verdict of not

vorce on the ground of Adultery. Continued over from last term. On the hearing of the case the De-

Saperior Court at Chambers.

Dacht vs. Dacht: Petition for Divorce on the ground of adultery. On the hearing of the case the Decree

The District Attorney appeared for the Crown. Mr. Kauwahi defended the prisoners. In the divorce cases Mr. Farwell appeared for the complainants.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE POLYNESIAN. SIR: The difficulty in raising rice mainly exists in

this, that there is in fact no difficulty at all; or in other words, persons unacquainted with the process of raising rice, imagine that there must necessarily exist some difficult management, which in reality does not exist. I believe, of every grain or other product grown. rice requires not only the least labor, but is raised by the most simple process.

In regard to soil I would say, that any and all kalo land, as long as it contains at least six inches of mud. and the deeper the mud the better, is fit to yield remunerating crops. Rice receives a good part of its food from the water. Although some writers have stated that rice is an inexhausting crop, receiving all its nutriment from the water, I rather doubt the statement. as experience has shown me that there is a vast difference in the yield between the rice grown in a rich. black mud and that grown in kalo land where the red Sansome st. Mr. C. W. Brooks is personally known soil, so well known on our islands, predominated. In the one place rice produced from 40 to 60 ears, while on the other the stalks were slender, the ears short and not more than 5 or 8 to the root. The running water, by him to them is a guarantee for the future to all | which comes from a long distance, the numerous little streams which rush down our mountain valleys, and are enlarged by heavy rains and enriched by the debris of igneous rocks, rotten wood and decayed leaves, are by far preferable to stagnant pools, as they bring to the rice-lands a constant supply of valuable manures, amongst which silica is the most valuable to rice, as no other grain requires as much. Of the preparation of rice-land it is unnecessary to say much more, than that the principal object of the planter should be to have his rice patch perfectly level, so that if the water is let on, one inch will nearly cover the surface. This is at first a somewhat difficult job, but when once the level is obtained, it will answer for years and years of couraged by those who now are in a position to experi- after culture. The kal- patches in this country are such perfect rice fields that there is no need to say any

thing about embankments and the required ditches. In regard to cultivation, I would say that I have tried this year four different methods. 1. I have drilled the seed with a seed sower in the drill on dry ground, 2. I have drilled the seed with the seed-sower upon the wet mud. 3. I have sown the seed broadcast on the wet mud; and 4. I have pursued the Chinese method and transplanted the rice from a seed bed. For method one I plowed the ground first, harrowed well, made light furrows with the corner of the hoe, about 10 inches apart-about as near as a man can go backwards without treading on the farrow-and dropped the seed with the seed-sower and covered lightly with a hoe or rake, and let the water on just enough to cover the

For method two, I stirred the mud with hoe and iron rakes to the consistency of poi, just stiff enough to withstand the wheels of the seed-sower so much as to turn them, and drilled the seed upon the ground, letting the water on the uncovered seed.

For method three, I stirred the mud to the consistency of thin poi, and sowed the seed broadcast. I would here remark, that persons are apt to sow too thick, which will injure the yield. The distance at which the plants should stand apart from each other, should be at least from 7 to 8 inches, and if they should be 12 or 16 inches apart, the plant will tiller so much that ear will hang on ear. By all means avoid thick sowing. Before the seed is sown it should be immersed in water, for the double benefit, first, the water floats all empty and worthless grain, and second, the grain when previously soaked and then rolled in ashes to make it freely slip through the fingers of the sower, will sink immediately in the water or on the mud, while dry it dles to drift in a heap to one side. Rice can be transplanted until it is in tight barrel-id. est, begins to form the ear-stem, and it is an easy matter to pull the plants The "Christian Almanac," an American publi- where they are too thick, and transfer them to places where too thin.

For method four, I sowed broadcast a few handsful on the slick mud in the corner of a kalo patch, and when from 6 to 10 inches high, transplanted into the soft mud of a rice field, one plant at a place, in rows that on Tuesday evening next, Messrs. Hasslocher 10 or 12 inches apart and from 6 to 8 apart in the row. Now, in regard to the four different modes I have

pursued, I would observe that of all, the broadcast sowing is preferable where much land is cultivated, as the cheapest; and the mode of transplanting, for those who only work a small quantity of land and do their own labor (I have mainly reference to the native population), is undoubtedly the most remunerative, because it requires not only less seed, but on account of evenness, or it may be the plant loves transplanting like many vegetables, it yields by far more than any other manner of raising rice-at least such has been my experience.

In regard to bringing the dried kalo patches under culture, I pursued the following method: First, I out the grass, and when dry laid it over the ground and set it on fire. Then I plowed the ground with the oxen

and turned the furrows from six to seven inches deep and as broad as I could conveniently cut them evenly and very particularly, one exactly joining the other. Had I possessed a heavy roller I should have rolled them, to press the edges down smooth. I then run over it with a heavy harrow, to loosen the ground without tearing the sod turned underneath, and my land was prepared, with the addition of having the sod turned under for a go d manuring. Where the mud was too deep for oxen to work, I followed the manner of the natives in preparing their kalo land. In regard to the watering the rice, different methods are pursued. In Carolina the water is withdrawn when the rice begins to swell, about the fourth or fifth day, and let on again when the rice is three or four inches high. In Piedmont the reverse method is pursued. I have tried both ways. and am convinced that the process of letting the water on and off only produces a crop of weeds, and therefore the water should be let on at once and kept on to the end. At first 1 or 11 inch will do. Through this the rice will work its way. Although at first when sprouted the sprouts lay flat on the mud, they gradually take an erect position. Afterwards increase the water with the growth of the rice. It serves greatly to strengthen the plant and keep it from swaying when the wind blows; it also prevents weeds from growing, except aquatic plants, among which what the natives call dried rice is prominent. Such weeds are easily pulled out, and one weeding is sufficient for a crop. When the rice begins to ripen and half the ears are quite ripe, let off

the water to dry the ground. Cut with a sickle when ripe, and handle carefully, because rice sits very loose. Rice ripens unequally. 1 have harvested, some 112 days after sowing, some four months, and some four and a half months. Rice which was sown in several instances two weeks earlier than that in adjoining kalo land, was reaped later. I do not know how to account for it, except it is the influence of the wind or the different degrees of warmth imparted to the mud. When caterpillars or cutworms visit the rice, which they are likely to do when the plant is tender, one hour's flooding or two, and suddenly opening the tailrate will sweep them off. Horses and cattle never disturb rice, except the grain is ripe, when grain-fed horses are fond of the

The threshing may be performed by the old fashioned flail, when a fit floor or large sail is at hand. I have threshed all my rice in a box. A large packing box, such as is used for shipping saddles, is very fit. four posts in the corners, and fasten round it some cloth or matting, leaving one side open. The cloth should hang down on the inside of the box, so that the grain which strikes it falls in the box. The open side of the box should also be low enough to permit the thresher to strike conveniently. Resting on this open edge extending to the opposite low corner of the box, is placed a ladder, on which the thresher strikes the rice. Four strokes are sufficient to thresh out the grain clean from a good handful of rice. One man can thresh as fast as two good reapers can cut, and the box is conveniently transported to where the reapers are engaged. The most difficulty exists in hulling. Our flour mill has tried it, but alas! it wont answer. On the Mississippi negroes stamp the husk off in a mortar; in South Carolina stamping mills are used. The grain is whitened by a process of polishing-how, I don't know.

If once a quantity of rice is raised on these islands, it may be supposed that a mill also will find a place here. You ask the meaning of half and whole crop. I have put down a half crop at two thousand pounds per acre, and a whole crop at four thousand. That the latter can be raised I am certain of, because I have had places in my field where the yield to the square yard was three-quarters of a pound to a pound and over ; but I believe there are at present very few kalo lands case with all kalo lands-very lucky or favorable seasons excepted-as long as they are not completely sheltered from the wind. Wind is the only drawback and the only hindrance to prevent each acre of kalo land from yielding its four thousand pounds of rice and over. When the rice is in bloom a fine white flower, the pollen, hangs on each grain. The wind blows this away, and the grain is blasted. Some ears ripen in advance of others'; the grain when ripe sits loose on the stalk, a heavy blast scours the field, and the grain falls in the Wind is the principal enemy to rice culture, and to shelter your rice field against this enemy should be the unceasing care of the planter. Plant any thing, sugar cane, willows, bananas, high and low trees, till the field is so guarded that not a breath of air can stir a halm, and a whole crop is sure to be the reward.

I have set down the average cost of a crop of rice at

\$5 per acre. In this estimate I certainly did not include the first cost of clearing a wild kalo patch, but had reference to such as are either clean under the operation of raising kalo, or prepared. Three good hands should weed an acre in a day, and the cutting and threshing could be performed by seven hands in another day's work. Where the rice is transplanted, there would be a heavier outlay incurred; but, as above observed, I think it cheaper to sow rice broadcast where much land is under rice culture. The kuaaunas have containers. made me the most difficulty. When well cleaned at the start, they can easily be kept clean with the hoe, and I would advise those who prepare rice land to at once clean these kunaunas thoroughly; it will save much after labor. With regard to the grain itself, I would remark that I believe that rice will adapt itself to the climate. The rice which I planted last year was imported China rice, a very small grain; and I find a marked difference in the product of this year, as the grain is larger and fuller, and I would not be surprised to find it still better in another crop. The hulled rice is by far darker than the original grain. This may either be accounted for because it is very fresh and badly hulled, or perhaps on account of its composition. South Carolina rice contains, according to Bousingoult, 89.5 of starch and only 3.8 of gluten, albumen, etc. Perhaps the quantity of gluten in our rice is larger and influences the color. Should the latter be the case, it would make the rice so much more valuable. There is no doubt that it is a very palatable article. In regard to the time of planting, I would remark that I have not yet arrived at a definite result. I have planted in March, in June, July and August, and all has done well so far. I shall try next in January. I would also mention, that mice, rats and wild pigeons are destructive to rice, and it would be well not to let the water off too soon, or arrange the ditches so that the water can be let on or off, whenever required.

Finally, I would say that I have 1500 pounds of good seed on hand and for sale, and also a quantity of clean rice which, although somewhat imperfectly hulled, is very palatable, and offered for sale in quantities to suit those who are desirous of tasting the first sample of Sandwich Island rice, So please send your orders, which will be promptly and very cheerfully attended to HOLSTEIN.

Your humble servant, P. S. Rice after having been cut begins to grow again. This is worthless; every crop must be sown

First Semi-Annual Statement by the Trensurer of the Queen's Hospital. To H. R. H. Prince L. Kamehameha, Minister of the In

terior, etc., etc.:

SIR :- In accordance with Article 2 of the Charter of the Queen's Hospital, granted 20th June, 1859, I beg to present the following semi-annual statement of the financial transactions and condition of the Corpo-

RECEIPTS UP TO THIS DATE, DEC. 20TH, 1859. From Concert by Honolulu Amateur Musi-From subscribers, .

" Benefit given by Prof. Anderson, . DISBURSEMENTS, etc. Paid rent of temporary Hospital to Nov. 1st, Paid salary of Physician, to Nov. 1st, . Paid wages of Steward and Ser-etc., to Dec. 1st., Paid for books, stationery, printing, etc., to Dec. 1st, 104 62 Loaned Nov. 10th on note and mortgage for 6 m. on interest. Cash on hand, 1,518 33 89,336 52

Assets Dec. 20th. \$1,518 33 Cash on hand, Note, for money loaned, 6,000 00 4,850 00 Subscriptions due, . . . \$12,368 33 LIABILITIES.

\$100 00 Due for rent to date, Amount wages, etc., from 1st inst. to date, estimated, Amount salary of Physician from Nov. 1st to date, 208 33 - 9483 33

\$11,885 00 CHAS. R. BISHOP, Treasurer. Honolulu, Dec. 20th, 1859.

LATEST FOREIGN DATES. - Sept 9 Panama, -- Oct 22 Paris, - -Aug 17 San Franci Sept 8 St. Louis, Aug 22 Tahiti - Valparaiso, - Nov 7 Victoria, V. I., COMMERCIAL. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1859

The past week's trade has been on a par with that which preeded it. The Black Sea has cleared at the Custom House win. a cargo valued at \$211,813 70, and has a freight list rising \$16. 000, which will pay the charterers, as she was understood to be chartered at a rate very favorable for them. The Boudit-A sailed this morning for McKean's Island to load guano. Theseh Jenunette arrived to-day from San Francisco, after a long passage of 30 days. She is intended as an island trader. She is a small craft of about 18 to 20 tons, and was purchased by Mr. John Cook of Hawaii.

The whale ship Benj. Rush changed hands this week at a figare understood to be the same as that the Bowlitch brought, say \$4,500, and was purchased by the same parties, Messrs, C. A. Williams & Co. The whale ship Vernon, lately returned from the Ochotsk, has been sold to Messrs. Gilman & Co., of Labaina. for \$3.500, and will carry a cargo of sweet potatoes to San Francisco from Lahaina. She is in good order, but needs coppering. The sch E. L. Frost, engaged as a tender last season to the Fernon, was sold as she lay on the beach at Ayan, on Saturday last, at public auction, and brought \$540. She was purchased by Messes, C. A. Williams & Co., and was sold for the benefit of underwriters, being fully insured in the United States.

The Washington Allston still remains out, and the clipper Golden Eagle, expected to sail for this place from San Francisco, had not arrived there up to last dates, 191 days out. The clipper Anglo Sitron may be looked for here in her place. CUSTON HOUSE VALUATIONS AND RATES OF CURRENCY .-- A ques-

tion has arisen at our Custom House the past week, respecting the accustomed valuation of an English invoice at \$4 80 to the pound sterling. The claim made by an importer of the invoices per Sea Nymph, was that they should be calculated at \$4 75. the rate fixed by a Treasury order, as the value of a sovereign, and an objection to allowing \$4 80, the Custom House valuation. To us, the solution of the difficulty is easy, by adhering to the enstom of the United States, which is to take the rates fixed by the Custom House for value of invoices in a foreign currency, and which is we believe the practice of every foreign nation. By Cone's U. S. Revenue Digest and Custom House Guide, we find the Custom House valuation for a pound sterling is \$4 80, while the Mint value is considerably more, say \$4 86, as appears by the latest U. S. Mint Tables. In case a Consul's certificate of the real value or rate of exchange is attached to the invoice, the currency, except when fixed by law, is taken at such certified rate. Duties are payable only in American Coin. The duties on the invoices ex Sea Nymph are ad calorea duties; the Customs rate has been fixed at \$4 80 to the pound sterling, and was calculated at such rate when the sovereign was circulating at \$5. The rate fixed by a Treasury order as current for the sovereign in local circulation is \$1.75, and if the duties are paid with that medium, in our opinion, it should be at the rate of \$4 75; or if the importer prefers it, he can in shillings at 25c each, equal to the pound at \$5. The purchasable rate of sorereigns to-day is \$4 80, and we question if 100 could be picked up in a day's travel at those figures. We looked for some such trouble as this, which we mentioned when commenting on the change in the currency as made by the Chamber of Commercial in favoring certain coins over others. If the reduction had been made at that time equally on all coins in proportion to the value they bore to the American dollar of 100 cents, the standard this Kingdom, it would have been better. We think if the duties were only payable in American coin, it would be an advantage to all concerned. The matter of the duties on the Sca Nymph's invoices is still in the hands of His Ex, the Minister of Finance. TRADE has been very dull and Auction Sales unimportant. In

eading articles we quote : BREAD-6c@7c for Navy and Pilot; Hawaiian 6c@7c. BEEF-No American Mess in first hands. The sale of Hawaiian, we are informed by the heaviest dealers, has been less than one-half that of last year, at prices varying from \$7 50@

COFFEE-Scarce. Last sales at 18% in quantity.

FLOUR-Gallego \$12@\$13; Hawaiian \$9. LUMBER-Stock on hand abundant, and market well supplied intil regular importations. N. W. boards \$375,840. R. W. shingles \$6 per M. From a tabular statement of products and anufactores shipped from Puget Sound to foreign ports from January 1st to Nov. 10, 1859, in the S. F. Mercantile P. C & List, we find there has been exported to Honolulu in that time-1,145,909 ft sawed lumber, valued at port of shipment, \$13,975 01 145,909 it sawed idinber, to ackets, 15 118,475 shingles, laths and packets, 15 14

MOLASSES-Continues scarce. Sales 25c per gall, without

SUGAR-6c@7c. New crops grinding not yet in market. EXCHANGE-Whaler's bills sold at 1 per cent, premium San Francisco par to 1/4 per cent. premlum.

The Advertiser on the Currency again. In the Commercial Article of our venerable confrers we no

ice a statement made with its usual regard to facts, that the

importers by the "Sea Nymph" had during the last week proposed to make their inward entries for merchandise, exchangng at \$4 75 for the pound, and that the Collector had declined o receive either entries or duties, but subsequently found the claim so untenable that the position had been abandoned and probably would not be raised again. The facts in the case att slightly different, as the plural in the word importers is gratu itous, only one individual making any such claim, and only one other any similar claim, and he not on the ground of the exchange, but on the glorious system of parity-one of the heaviest importers by the vessel having previously passed his entries, making the exchange himself at the usual rate of \$4 80 The p-sition has not yet been discovered to be either unjust r untenable, and has not, and cannot be abandoned without actificing a right which every independant government mud claim and insist upon—the right of regulating its own currency

In the case mentioned can the Advertiser, or any of its palons show the justice of claiming the pound to be the unit of exchange, because it happens to be the depreciated corn, while the shilling, half and quarter shilling are all received sal passing at a premium? Would it not be deemed a hardship if the rate at which the shilling passes should be insisted upon by the government, thus raising the exchange from \$4 80 to 85 00. Yet certainly the right of the government to take that as a standard is as good as that of the importer to insist on \$4.75, especially as in this case the duties were paid in Amer

The standard prescribed by law in this Kingdom is the American coin, and the power is lodged in the Minister of Finance, with the consent of the Privy Council, to make such rules and to adopt such rates in regard to other foreign coins, as he may deem most proper, even to the extent of rejecting them altogether, as in the United States, where the rate at which the British Sovereign is received, is fixed by positive law and is yet not a legal tender in the payment of govern-

The rate prescribed by the Minister of Finance in this case is simply a Treasury order, designed to secure uniformity in our circulating medium, and does not fix the market value of the sovereign, except for purposes of general trade, and simply 8,808 52 | confines it to those of exchange for which it was selling, if as were correctly informed, on the very day on which the above demand was made at the rate of \$4.80, and the reason why it was not tendered in payment of the duties, was probably that the person making the claim was too shrewd not to know that it was worth more than \$4.75.

But if the position taken by the Collector, that the government has a right to prescribe a rate of exchange different from that at which one class of the coins is received, is untenable will the Advertiser have the goodness to tell us what is to be done with French exchange. The silver 5-Franc piece passe and is received at the Treasury for \$1 00, while the gold Franc has a third rate and passes as \$3.75, shall the importe have the choice in this matter exclusively, or has the government also some rights to be regarded in the case?

The case is certainly somewhat complicated, but to us it seems that it is indisputable that the government is the prope party to fix the rate of exchange for foreign currency, and the best way to clear the subject of difficulty seems to us to be the adoption of the rates in use in the United States, and also of the regulation that all government dues shall be paid in the issues of the American Mint.

MISTAKES IN PER CENTAGE .- Mistakes are often made by persons not business men, in calculating per centage. If a met chant marks his goods for sale at 50 per cent, advance, and 35h per cent. be afterwards deducted from the market price. he sel per cent. be afterwards deducted from the market price. he at cost, because 33 is per cent. of \$1.50 is exactly 50 cents, the profits marked on \$1. If he sells goods at 25 per cent. above cost, and deducts 5 per cent. from the bill for cash, his profits are 18% per cent., and not 20 per cent. as some persons at first sight would suppose. Goods have sometimes been sold at a loss through mistakes in per centage.

Formus Cons —The value of foreign coins depends upon its amount of pure gold or silver which they contain. As changes of weight and fi seness are occasionally made by the different governments in their coins, it becomes necessary for the commercial world to be kept informed of what these changes are.